

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A device for use in a communication system including a transmitter, a receiver, and a serial communication link between the transmitter and the receiver, wherein the system is configured to implement a content protection protocol, the protocol requires that each of the transmitter and the receiver has a distinctive value allocated thereto, and the protocol requires that each of the transmitter and the receiver must receive the distinctive value allocated to the other of the transmitter and the receiver during an authentication procedure, and the protocol requires that the transmitter and the receiver successfully complete the authentication procedure before the transmitter sends encrypted data to the receiver, wherein said device includes:

circuitry coupled and configured to compare, during the authentication procedure, the distinctive values allocated to the transmitter and the receiver, and to prevent authentication from succeeding if the distinctive values are equal.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein a first distinctive value is allocated to the transmitter, a second distinctive value is allocated to the receiver, the protocol requires that the transmitter send the first distinctive value to the receiver and that the receiver send the second distinctive value to the transmitter during the authentication procedure, and wherein the device is coupled and configured to compare the first distinctive value and the second distinctive value during the authentication procedure, and to prevent the authentication from succeeding if the first distinctive value is equal to the second distinctive value.

3. (currently amended) A transmitter for use in a communication system including the transmitter, a receiver, and a serial communication link between the transmitter and the receiver, wherein the system is configured to implement a content protection protocol, the protocol requires that each of the transmitter and the receiver has a distinctive value allocated

thereto, a first distinctive value is allocated to the transmitter, a second distinctive value is allocated to the receiver, and the protocol requires that the transmitter send the first distinctive value to the receiver and that the receiver send the second distinctive value to the transmitter during an authentication procedure, and the protocol requires that the transmitter and the receiver successfully complete the authentication procedure before the transmitter sends encrypted data to the receiver, wherein said transmitter includes:

an input configured to be coupled to the link for receiving the second distinctive value; and

circuitry coupled to the input, and configured to compare the second distinctive value received at the input and the first distinctive value, and configured to prevent authentication from succeeding if the first distinctive value is equal to the second distinctive value, and to send encrypted data to the receiver over the link upon successful completion of the authentication procedure when coupled to the link.

4. (currently amended) A receiver for use in a communication system including the receiver, a transmitter, and a serial communication link between the transmitter and the receiver, wherein the system is configured to implement a content protection protocol, the protocol requires that each of the transmitter and the receiver has a distinctive value allocated thereto, a first distinctive value is allocated to the transmitter, a second distinctive value is allocated to the receiver, and the protocol requires that the transmitter send the first distinctive value to the receiver and that the receiver send the second distinctive value to the transmitter during an authentication procedure, and the protocol requires that the transmitter and the receiver successfully complete the authentication procedure before the transmitter sends encrypted data to the receiver, wherein said receiver includes:

an input configured to be coupled to the link for receiving the first distinctive value; and

circuitry coupled to the input, configured to compare the first distinctive value received at the input and the second distinctive value, and configured to prevent authentication from succeeding if the first distinctive value is equal to the second distinctive value.

5. (currently amended) A communication system including:

a transmitter;

a receiver; and

a serial communication link between the transmitter and the receiver, wherein the transmitter and the receiver are configured to implement a content protection protocol, wherein the protocol requires that the transmitter send a first distinctive value to the receiver during an authentication procedure, and that the receiver send a second distinctive value to the transmitter during the authentication procedure, and that the transmitter and the receiver successfully complete the authentication procedure before the transmitter sends encrypted data to the receiver, wherein the transmitter is configured to compare the first distinctive value with the second distinctive value received during the authentication procedure and to prevent authentication from succeeding if the first distinctive value is equal to the second distinctive value, and wherein the receiver is configured to compare the second distinctive value with the first distinctive value received during the authentication procedure and to prevent authentication from succeeding if the second distinctive value is equal to the first distinctive value.

Claims 6-27 (canceled).

28. (currently amended) A receiver for use in a communication system including said receiver, a transmitter, and a serial communication link between the transmitter and the receiver, wherein the transmitter and the receiver are configured to implement a content protection protocol, wherein the protocol requires that the transmitter send a first distinctive value to the receiver during an authentication procedure, and that the receiver send a second distinctive value to the transmitter during the authentication procedure, and that the transmitter and the receiver successfully complete the authentication procedure before the transmitter sends encrypted data to the receiver, and wherein said receiver includes:

circuitry configured to check for checking whether the first distinctive value that it receives during the authorization procedure satisfies at least one predetermined criterion, and to prevent authorization from succeeding if said first distinctive value does not satisfy each said criterion.

29. (currently amended) A transmitter for use in a communication system including said transmitter, a receiver, and a serial communication link between the transmitter and the receiver, wherein the transmitter and the receiver are configured to implement a content protection protocol, wherein the protocol requires that the transmitter send a first distinctive value to the receiver during an authentication procedure, and that the receiver send a second distinctive value to the transmitter during the authentication procedure, and that the transmitter and the receiver successfully complete the authentication procedure before the transmitter sends encrypted data to the receiver, and wherein said transmitter includes:

circuitry for checking configured to check whether the second distinctive value that it receives during the authorization procedure satisfies at least one predetermined criterion, and to prevent authorization from succeeding if said second distinctive value does not satisfy each said criterion, and to send encrypted data to the receiver over the link upon successful completion of the authentication procedure when coupled to the link.

30. (original) A receiver for use in a communication system including said receiver, a transmitter, and a serial communication link between the transmitter and the receiver, wherein the transmitter and the receiver are configured to implement a content protection protocol, wherein the protocol requires that the transmitter and the receiver successfully complete an authentication exchange before the transmitter sends encrypted data to the receiver, and wherein said receiver includes:

lockout means configured to prevent successful completion of an authentication exchange between the receiver and the transmitter in the event that an authorization request is received at the receiver within a predetermined time window after a predetermined number of authentication requests have been received at the receiver.

31. (original) A transmitter for use in a communication system including said transmitter, a receiver, and a serial communication link between the transmitter and the receiver, wherein the transmitter and the receiver are configured to implement a content protection protocol, wherein the protocol requires that the transmitter and the receiver successfully complete an authentication exchange before the transmitter sends encrypted data to the receiver, and wherein said transmitter includes:

lockout means configured to prevent successful completion of an authentication exchange between the receiver and the transmitter in the event that an authorization request is received at the transmitter within a predetermined time window after a predetermined number of authentication requests have been received at the transmitter.

Claims 32-63 (canceled).